

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AF-06 OPIC-03 EB-07 CIEP-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3889

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SPECULATION ON COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS CONTAIN GENERALLY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT NOW BEING PUT TOGETHER BY MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND OTELO AS IT STOOD LATE YESTERDAY. FABIAO WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER; CRESPO AND ANTUNES VICE PRIME MINISTERS. COMPOSITION WOULD INCLUDE THREE FROM PS, TWO FROM PPD, AND ONE FROM PCP. PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO WAFFLE. COMMUNIST PRESS IS PULLING OUT ALL STOPS, AND ANTUNES AND COMPANY MUST STILL REACH FINAL AGREEMENT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

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1. WELL INFORMED MEDIA SOURCES NOW TAKE IT AS CERTAIN THAT SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING EARLY PART OF NEXT WEEK. TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, IS MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED DATE. JORNAL NOVO'S AUGUST 22 EDITION LISTED FOLLOWING AS LIKELY MEMBERS OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

--PRIME MINISTER, CARLOS FABIAO

--VICE PRIME MINISTERS, VITOR CRESPO AND MELO ANTUNES.

--FOREIGN MINISTER, MELO ANTUNES.

--SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, VITOR ALVES.

EX-MES MEMBERS JORGE CAMPINOS, JORGE SAMPAIO, AND JOAO CRAVINHO WOULD RETURN TO POSITIONS THEY OCCUPIED BY FOURTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT; OTELO WOULD BECOME CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES.

2. EXPRESSO OF AUGUST 23 CARRIED EVEN MORE DETAILED REPORT. IN ADDITION TO FABIAO, CRESPO, ANTUNES, AND OTELO IN POSITIONS CITED ABOVE, ITS LISTED:

--INDUSTRY, JOAO CRAVINHO

--AGRICULTURE, OLIVEIRA BAPTISTA.

--SOCIAL WELFARE, SA BORGES.

--INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION, SALGADO ZENHA.

--EDUCATION, MEDEIROS FERREIRA.

--CULTURE, EDUARDO LOURENCO.

--LABOR, TOMAS ROSA.

--SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS VITOR ALVES.

--FINANCE HERNANI LOPES.

NEW GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSO REPORTED, WOULD INCLUDE THREE PS, TWO PPD AND ONE PCP MINISTER.

3. PRINCIPAL CONTENDERS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS.

--MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND OTELO: MELO ANTUNES MET AUGUST 22 WITH MAJOR PARTIES (SOARES, GUERREIRO, AND CUNHAL) IN EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT. OTELO AND FABIAO CONTINUED VISITS TO REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDS (COIMBRA, AUGUST 21; EVORA, AUGUST 22) IN EFFORT TO CONFIRM SUPPORT WITHIN UNITS OUTSIDE LISBON.

--PRIME MINISTER: GONCALVES REFUSES TO CONCEDE DEFEAT. HIS SUPPORTERS WITHIN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO STRIKE SOME KIND OF A BARGAIN WITH MELO ANTUNES-OTELO SUPPORTERS AND PRESIDENT OR TO SPLIT THE RANKS OF THE MELO ANTUNES-OTELO
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FORCES. GONCALVES IS MEETING PRESIDENT TODAY (AUG. 23).

--COMMUNISTS: PCP REMAINS IN DEFENSE POSTURE WITH REDUCED OBJECTIVE OF STAYING IN GAME ON BEST TERMS IT CAN GET WITH VIEW TO REBUILDING FOR LATER COMEBACK. PCP WORKING ON THREE LEVELS: (A) IT IS PUSHING COSTA GOMES HARD TO ENSURE PCP PARTICIPATION IN SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT; (B) IT IS MAINTAINING A RESPECTABLE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, WHILE NOT LINKING ITS FORTUNES ENTIRELY WITH THOSE

OF PRIME MINISTER AND TRYING TO INGRATIATE ITSELF TO ULTRA-LEFT
WITH SUPPORTERS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT PREPARED BY COPCON OFFICERS;
(C) IT CONTINUES TO PUSH UNITY THEME, STRESSING THAT PCP IS
INDISPENSIBLE TO REALIZATION OF GOALS OF REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: INITIATIVE STILL RESTS WITH MELO ANTUNES GROUP
AND OTELO. BUTH THEY STILL HAVE NOT OVERCOME ALL OBSTANCLES AND
TIME WORKS AGAINST THEM. THE PRESIDENT, DESPITE THE ULTIMATUM
PRESENTED TO HIM EARLIER IN THE WEEK TO OUST GONCALVES, AND HIS
ASSURANCES TO THE AMBASSADOR AUGUST 22 THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE
NEED TO ACT, IS STILL VASCILLATING. ANTUNES AND COMPANY MUST STILL
COME TO TERMS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES; IN THE MEANTIME
GONCALVES REMAINS PRIME MINISTER. MOREOVER, THE PREMATURE SURFACING
OF DETAILS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT--WHICH EMBASSY SOURCES CONFIRM
ARE GENERALLY ACCURATE--GIVES THE VARIOUS GROUPS OPPOSING
THE NEW GOVERNMENT A CLEARER TARGET TO SHOOT AT AND THE COMMUNIST
PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS NOW SHOOTING AT THE ANTUNES
"REACTIONARIES" WITH EVERY BIT OF AMMUNITION IT HAS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0013
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750823/aaaaaucd.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECULATION ON COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS CONTAIN GENERALLY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006